

# Fountain Hills Unified School District



## Safe Return to School Plan

2021 – 2022

July 28, 2021

Dear Falcon Families,

As we maneuver the changing landscape of our society, FHUSD is committed to the education of our community's children. In making decisions about the reopening of schools, not only are we considering your child's health and wellness but the health and wellness of our fabulous staff. The guidance provided in this document is a culmination of dedicated community members utilizing Arizona Department of Health (ADHS) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Guidance and requirements change frequently. Please know we are continuing to be as flexible and understanding to changes while adjusting to the plans set forth.

The following principles guided the development of our plan:

- We will strive to create a return to school environment that will be as normal as possible while implementing safety precautions.
- We are here to support you; however, parents are ultimately responsible for their child's health and well-being. We are not requiring masks or vaccinations to return to school, however, we strongly encourage the continued use of masks. We encourage you to discuss vaccinations with your family's medical care team. We graciously ask that you follow the COVID-19 guidelines for parents on page 2 of this document.
- Timely, clear, and effective communication is key. FHUSD's Latest News and Facebook page are our official outlets for COVID news and plans.
- FHUSD will plan for what we know today, and we will be flexible as new conditions emerge.
- Cleaning and sanitizing procedures at all sites have been enhanced. FHUSD will continue to invest in new equipment and effective practices to keep our environment safe and healthy.

Below, you will find the guidelines and information you will need to send your child back to school safely. In order to keep all students and staff safe from contacting COVID-19 at school, please adhere to the COVID-19 Parent Information. Please DO NOT send your child to school if they have symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19. It is imperative for everyone's safety that we all follow the guidelines set forth by the Maricopa County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control. This plan mirrors the guidelines we have been provided by both organizations.

We monitor data from the Maricopa County Health Department on the data [dashboard](#) to include our town, district (includes Ft. McDowell), and surrounding communities weekly. Should we have an outbreak of COVID-19, we will follow the guidelines from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH).

Thank you for your patience, kindness, and understanding as we have continued to monitor the current trends in the pandemic. Please do not hesitate to contact your school's office should you have questions or needs.

Shelly Jensen, MMES Principal  
Chris Hartmann, FHHS Principal

Jeff Markle, FHMS Principal  
Kelly Glass, FHUSD Superintendent

## **COVID-19 Parent Information**

The monitoring of COVID-19 for our children starts in the home. We want our schools to remain open and students learning in the classroom with their teachers and peers. Parents, you can assist us in battling the spread of COVID-19 in FHUSD schools in the following ways:

- Please keep your children home should they present with any COVID-like symptoms or they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Awards for perfect attendance will not be given this school year. We will work with whatever accommodations are needed due to absences.
- Please check your child for the following symptoms daily:
  - Fever of 100.4 or higher or chills;
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
  - Muscle aches;
  - Sore throat;
  - Headache;
  - Fatigue;
  - Congestion or runny nose;
  - Cough;
  - Vomiting;
  - Diarrhea;
  - New loss of taste or smell
- If you have questions about your child's symptoms, please contact your primary care provider.
- Help children learn the value of washing their hands with soap and water and using hand sanitizer especially after covering their coughs and sneezes.
- Students and staff will not be required to wear masks, however, based on the current public health situation, masks are encouraged for everyone's safety. Mask wearing is still acceptable should you choose to have your student wear one at school.
- Students and staff are not required to receive the COVID-19 vaccination to enroll in school or to work in the schools.

## **Instructional Opportunities**

### **Student Academic Needs**

This school year, we have two methods to offer instruction for our students and their families.

- Instructional Methods:
  - Traditional in-person learning will take place every day this school year barring any outbreaks or mandates from the Governor's office. Additional quarantine and school closure plans will be developed and published for all stakeholders.
  - Fountain Hills Virtual Academy will be offered to students and their families. This method of instruction will be strictly online and students will not attend in person. FHVA offers a wide variety of classes and includes electives for high school students. A FHUSD teacher will be facilitating the course, have office hours, and provide support for your student. Students attending the FHVA will receive a handbook with requirements on how to complete their coursework. The attendance guidelines are governed by the state of Arizona.
- After-school tutoring will take place at each campus throughout the school year with limited transportation available for students.

- During the school day, staff will be engaging students in intervention opportunities to narrow the learning gap that may have happened during the school closures and hybrid schedules.
- Summer school will be offered to students in need of additional intervention and enrichment and also includes transportation.

Bring:

Charger, Chromebook, Water bottle, and needed school supplies in a backpack.

### **Chromebook/Device**

All students will be issued a Chromebook for the school year. Parents will need to complete the technology agreement and can select insurance for the device. Elementary students will keep their Chromebook in their classroom for daily use. Should we need to close the school or classroom for COVID outbreak, the school will arrange for Chromebook pick up. For families with no broadband access, students may be assigned a Wi-Fi hotspot – one per family.

### **Curriculum & Classroom Process**

We will still continue to follow the Beyond Textbooks curriculum calendar (<https://www.fountainhillsschools.org/Beyond-Textbooks>) and utilize Schools PLP (<https://fhusd.schoolsplp.com/login>) as our learning platform. Staff will be using Schools PLP to continue to provide learning resources, but it will not be the primary source of instruction.

### **Maintaining the health and safety of our students, educators, and other staff**

#### **COVID-19 Related Information**

The school district will follow the guidelines in reporting and isolation of students and staff with COVID-19 from MCDPH.

Response to Reported Cases:

- FHUSD will follow CDC protocols regarding reported cases and take specific guidance from MCDPH.
- School nurses will follow established screening protocols and will consult with public health officials to determine how to best handle students and staff who display or develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Isolation rooms will be established in each school for students or staff who may be sick. Parents will be required to immediately pick up their child should they present with COVID-like symptoms.
- All reported cases and close contacts are reported to MCDPH.

#### **Procedures for COVID-19 Symptoms or Positive Test:**

If a person becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms or reports a positive test, the procedures listed below should be followed:

1. Immediately report the situation to the building principal or school nurse. Confidentiality will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.
2. If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, the student will be separated from all other students and staff, with the exception of one staff member to supervise the student. This employee will have PPE and will maintain 6 feet physical distance unless there is an emergency.

Parents or guardians will be called immediately for student pick up or 911 if the student appears to be in medical distress.

3. If an employee develops COVID-19 symptoms at work, the employee will be separated from all other students, staff, or visitors, and arrangements made to send the employee home in a safe manner. 911 will be called if the employee seems to be in medical distress.
4. Areas that were exposed to the symptomatic employee or student will be closed for a prolonged time. FHUSD will wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting those areas. During that time, if feasible, we will increase the airflow to the area.
5. Determine whether other employees or students may have been exposed to the symptomatic individual within 6 feet and for a prolonged period of time (longer than 15 minutes). If so, notify those individuals (or, in the case of students, their parents) of the potential exposure. FHUSD will NOT disclose the name of the person who has become sick. Notification will recommend that exposed individuals monitor their health closely, contact their health care provider if possible, and self-quarantine if any symptoms develop.

### **Quarantine Guidelines:**

FHUSD will **ONLY** quarantine students who:

1. Present with symptoms
2. Have a positive COVID test, or
3. Have a family member that receives a positive COVID test.

Parents will receive a letter indicating close contact with other students/staff identified with COVID 19 and a request to monitor your child's symptoms and keep them home should they present with any of the symptoms above.

### **Outbreak/Closure:**

MCDPH defines an outbreak as two laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with symptoms within a 14-day period, who are linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as a close contact of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing. MCDPH will determine when a site or classroom should be closed due to an outbreak. After an investigation by MCDPH, the health agency will determine if an outbreak has occurred and will direct us on the course of action we should take.

### **When should my child stay home from school and for how long:**

#### **Close contact with a family member who tests positive for COVID-19:**

If a student has had close contact with a family member who has tested positive for COVID-19 (the CDC defines close contact as within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) then the student must quarantine. Below are quarantine guidelines for a few different scenarios:

- If the student does not develop symptoms, they must quarantine for 10 days.
- If the student develops symptoms, they must quarantine and isolate for at least 14 days and until symptoms improve. The student should also be tested for COVID-19.

#### **Student with Symptoms or Tests Positive for COVID:**

- Stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until results are available. At least 10 days\* have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers;

AND

- Other symptoms have improved.

**Quarantine Guideline Charts:**

Students who have no symptoms but are required to quarantine based on close contact with a **family member or exhibit COVID like symptoms.**

<b>Example</b> of standard quarantine guidelines.						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Date of Last Exposure Day 0	Quarantine Day 1	Quarantine Day 2
Quarantine Day 3	Quarantine Day 4	Quarantine Day 5	Quarantine Day 6	Quarantine Day 7	Quarantine Day 8	Quarantine Day 9
Quarantine Day 10	Return to School					

Students who obtains a negative COVID-19 test result can return to school on day 8.

<b>Example</b> of early release from quarantine with a negative COVID-19 test result.						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Date of Last Exposure Day 0	Quarantine Day 1	Quarantine Day 2
Quarantine Day 3	Quarantine Day 4	Quarantine Day 5	Quarantine Day 6 Completes COVID-19 PCR or antigen test on or after 5 full days of quarantine.	Quarantine Day 7	Return to School If the individual has received a negative test result AND remains symptom free since exposure.	* Negative tests obtained on days 1-5 of the self-isolation period will not be accepted for clearance under this protocol because of the high rate of “false negative” test results that may occur during this time.

### **School Campuses and Classrooms:**

As recommended by the CDC,

- Where feasible, seating will be arranged to maintain as much physical distance. Desks will face the same direction or students will sit on only one side of the table, spaced apart.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to be filled at school as the water fountains will be off-limits. A bottle filler water fountain will be installed at each campus.
- Students will utilize their own school supplies and keep their belongings separate or in their backpacks throughout the day.
- Signage will be posted in all rooms, common rooms, and entryways reminding everyone of hygiene practices to prevent the spread of COVID.

### **Hand Hygiene**

- All students and staff will continue to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer at school as recommended by the CDC.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available at every school site especially in high traffic areas.

### **Enhanced Cleaning**

- School campuses will be disinfected daily following CDC, state, and local guidelines using FDA agents approved for use in public areas.
- At the end of each school day, each building will be cleaned and disinfected prior to the start of the next school day.
- District vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected following CDC, state, and local guidelines at the conclusion of the morning route schedule and again at the end of the day.
- Additional disinfecting and sanitizing of high-touch areas will be completed on each campus to include bathrooms.
- All classrooms will have an EPA N-List registered disinfectant available for staff to disinfect high touchpoints as needed throughout the day.
- Air quality and circulation will be maintained through HVAC coils and air filter changes as scheduled.
- In the case of a positive COVID-19 case, custodial staff will follow all cleaning protocols.

### **Health Checks/Screening**

- Temperature checks will be conducted daily for all students and staff. All students presenting with health issues or a temperature of 100.4 or above will be taken to the school nurse.
- Parents will be contacted should symptoms be present and be required to immediately pick up their child. Please be prepared to answer phone calls from the school in the event your child is exhibiting symptoms. Please be cooperative with the health office personnel.
- Parents and guardians should assess their child's health daily before sending them to school.
- Students will be reminded of proper hygiene including avoiding touching their eyes, nose, and mouth; covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and safely discarding tissues.
- Contact tracing will be completed based on CDC and ADHS guidelines and requirements.
- Your child will not be required to have a COVID-19 vaccination, however, it will be helpful for us to know should your child come in contact with COVID-19 or one of the variants.

FHUSD does not provide diagnostic or screening testing. Please see your family’s physician or visit a testing site. Embry Women’s Health has a testing site in the parking lot of the high school campus and is available throughout the Fountain Hills community.

**Face Coverings**

While the CDC continues to encourage the use of face coverings, students and staff will not be required to wear face coverings on school property or during school events.

- While not mandatory, we strongly encourage our students and staff to wear face coverings due to the increase in COVID-19/Delta variant transmission in our community and county.
- Students and staff may continue to wear face coverings if the family and staff members elect to do so.
  - Care of cloth face coverings: masks and face coverings must be cleaned and sanitized daily and should not be worn on subsequent days without cleaning and sanitizing.
  - Should students wear cloth face coverings; they should bring an extra to school in case the other becomes soiled.

**Athletics**

Based on AIA requirements, students who test positive for COVID 19 will follow the isolation/quarantine guidelines below:

- The athlete may return to sports practice with a provided doctor’s clearance/cardiac screening after day 14, completed no earlier than 10 days after the positive result was received
- Must complete 6-day return to play process with the site’s Athletic Trainer after providing clearance referenced above before returning to full athletic participation. This does not permit the student to participate in athletic competitions.

Student athlete return to school and play (AIA Guidelines)

<b><u>Example</u> of <i>STUDENT-ATHLETE</i> quarantine with a negative COVID-19 test result.</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Date of Last Exposure Day 0	Quarantine Day 1	Quarantine Day 2
Quarantine Day 3	Quarantine Day 4	Quarantine Day 5	Quarantine Day 6	Quarantine Day 7	Quarantine Day 8	Quarantine Day 9
Quarantine Day 10	Quarantine Day 11 Obtain Dr. Clearance	Quarantine Day 12	Quarantine Day 13	Quarantine Day 14	Return to practice Day 15 If the individual has received a negative test result AND remains	Return to Play Progression Day 2 (Stage 1)



					symptom free since exposure.	
Return to Play Progression Day 3	Return to Play Progression Day 4	Return to Play Progression Day 5	Return to Play Progression Day 6	Return to competition	NOTE: Any FHUSD Student-Athlete may follow the standard or early release from quarantine guidelines in order to return to classes for in-person learning. However, student-athletes may not return to any athletic team functions until after the 14th day of quarantine.	

### Continuity of Services

#### Student and Staff Well-being

##### Student Well-being

School counselors will be utilizing the American School Counseling Association’s (ASCA) framework for implementing school counseling. The framework emphasizes social-emotional learning for all students. Staff will utilize Panorama’s Social Emotional Learning framework to provide students with support and learning.

##### Staff Well-being

Each site will be engaging in a wellness plan that focuses on social-emotional learning through Panorama. Well Styles will be utilized to assist staff in social, emotional, and mental health needs through classes and assistance through the medical health plan. Well Styles is a program through the district’s health insurance plan that promotes staff well-being and wellness through classes and other programs.

#### Lunchrooms/Classroom Food and Holiday/Birthday Treats

Regular meal service will take place in all school cafeterias in FHUSD. Parents, please – please – please, put money into your child’s account. This prevents the food service workers from touching bills and coins that could be contaminated. Lunchrooms will be sanitized between or during lunches. Students will be encouraged to eat outside when the weather permits. When sending treats to school for celebrations, please send pre-packaged foods that only the student will handle. Otherwise, no food will be permitted in the classrooms.

#### Visitors on Campus

Visitors will be allowed on campus to provide parental and instructional support as well as mentoring for FHUSD students. Visitors will check-in at the school office, wear a mask and be required to sign a waiver of exposure to COVID-19 and wellness. Visitors that exhibit COVID-like symptoms should stay home and will not be permitted on school campuses.

### Communication

The school site will communicate with parents/guardians when their student has been exposed to COVID 19. There are two letters that you may receive – Notification of Close Contact and Notification of Outbreak. Below is the letter that you will receive if your child is in close contact with someone testing positive for COVID 19.

Should the district be notified by MCDPHS that we are an outbreak site, you'll receive a separate communication with instructions regarding the closure. Information will be posted on the district website as well as an email sent to all families. Please make sure your information is correct in PowerSchool.

### **DATE**

Dear Fountain Hills families,

Today we received confirmation that a student in your child's class has tested positive for COVID-19. The most recent date of exposure was **DATE**. The individual will not return to campus until their isolation/quarantine is complete.

We understand that this news may cause you concern and we want to make sure you have all the information you need to make informed health decisions. Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) provides the following information:

### **Should symptoms develop**

If any individual develops COVID-19 symptoms (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, headache, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, muscle/body aches, and/or a new loss of taste or smell), Public Health advises getting tested with a COVID-19 PCR or antigen test.

### **High-risk household members**

If your home includes those who may be at higher risk for serious complications from COVID-19, Public Health recommends anyone exposed to COVID-19 stay away from this person as much as possible for 10 days.

### **Testing**

People who have been exposed to COVID-19 are at risk of becoming ill for up to 14 days after the exposure. If you haven't developed symptoms by that time, you are unlikely to develop symptoms from this exposure. While testing is not required for individuals not having symptoms, you can visit [www.maricopa.gov/covid19testing](http://www.maricopa.gov/covid19testing) or call the Arizona COVID-19 hotline at 844-542-8201 for more information about testing options and availability in your area. Free COVID-19 testing is available at the following locations:

- Embry Women's Health
- CVS pharmacy

- Paradigm Laboratories
- Walgreens pharmacy

### **Quarantine of Students**

It is recommended that individuals exposed through close contact quarantine for 10 days from the last exposure in order to prevent illness in new persons. The decision to quarantine a student due to close contact will be the decision of the parents. Quarantine means the student or staff member should not go to school, work, hang out with friends, go to social events, or come into close contact with another person even if they have NO symptoms until the quarantine period has passed.

### **Remote Learning While Quarantined**

Students who are absent from school because they are ill or have elected to quarantine due to being in close contact with a COVID-19 person are still responsible for their classwork while away from school. Students will be required to login into Schools PLP to access class and course assignments and assessments. Teachers may also schedule Google Meet or Zoom meetings with students in order to host office hours or tutoring sessions.

Fountain Hills Unified School District is following recommendations from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health to stop COVID-19 from spreading in our schools. This includes reminding students and staff to stay home when they are sick and getting a PCR or antigen test. High-touch surface areas are disinfected regularly, and we encourage frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer by students and staff members. While masks are strongly recommended but not required, they remain part of our mitigation strategy. Please take a moment to review the key points of our plan in further detail. We remain vigilant of the impact COVID-19 is having in our community and continue to monitor and review data school by school, program by program, and classroom by classroom.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the principal's office for more information. In addition, MCDPH has a dedicated email to receive public health inquiries from parents/guardians of students, if needed: [COVIDparenthotline@maricopa.gov](mailto:COVIDparenthotline@maricopa.gov). More information can also be found at [Maricopa.gov/Covid19](http://Maricopa.gov/Covid19).

Please notify the school attendance line if you plan to keep your child home.

Thank you for your patience and for helping us keep our schools safe.

Sincerely,

Principal's Name

Principal

School Name